# **Special Connections**

# What is Special Connections?

Special Connections is a program for pregnant women on Medicaid who have alcohol and/or drug abuse problems. Special Connections helps women have healthier pregnancies and healthier babies by providing case management, individual and group counseling, and health education during pregnancy and up to one year after delivery. Special Connections services are in addition to the prenatal care a woman receives from her doctor or nurse-midwife.

# Who is eligible?

Women who are:

- Eligible for Medicaid;
- Pregnant or within one year after delivery;
  (Only women who were in Special Connections before they delivered are eligible for Special Connections services after they deliver); and
- At risk of having an unhealthy pregnancy and unhealthy baby because of alcohol and/or drug abuse problems. (A risk screening is done by a Special Connections provider to see if a woman meets the risk criteria.)

## What services are available?

Services can be outpatient or residential depending on a woman's level of risk. Services include:

- In-depth risk screening;
- Individual substance abuse counseling;
- Group substance abuse counseling with other pregnant women;
- Group health education with other pregnant women;
- Case management;
- Urine screening and monitoring; and
- Referral to appropriate aftercare and ongoing support.

## Where services are available?

The Department of Human Services' Division of Behavioral Health maintains an updated list of providers. To find a Special Connections provider, call the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health at 303-866-7400.

### What does it cost?

For pregnant women who are Medicaid eligible, the services are provided at no cost.

#### How does a woman enroll?

To access services, contact Colorado Division of Behavioral Health at 303-866-7400.

## For more information about the Special Connection Program:

CONTACTS: Customer Contact Center: 303-866-3513

Media, <u>Joanne Zahora</u>: 303-866-3144



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